

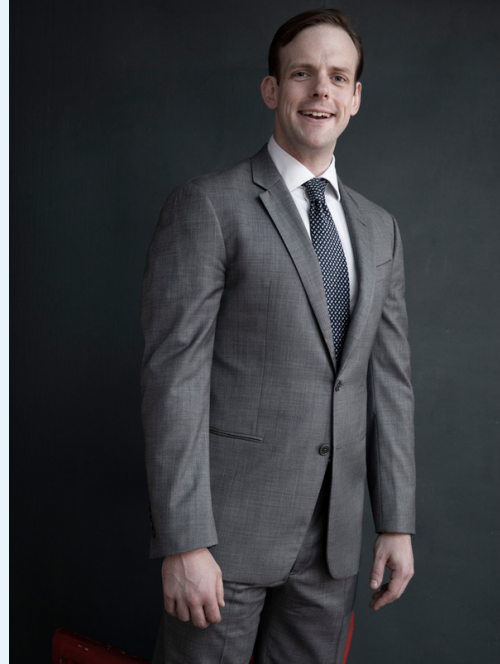
# BROOKLINE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2023

## TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

Dear Brookline,

Happy August! The summer has flown by here in Town Hall, but we've been making the most of it. We gave raises to our social workers that the override made possible, implemented new contracts for our Police and Fire Union employees, began revamping our Building Department to ensure it's ready to face the many challenges of our increasingly environmentally friendly building codes, and took the first steps in opening the [Office of Housing Stability](#) that Town Meeting created in the spring. We took delivery of the first few all-electric vehicles as part of our American Rescue Plan Act-funded green town initiative and are continuing to strategize on how to build out a sustainable charging infrastructure for municipal vehicles and the community at large.



And we've had some wonderful events, including, earlier this month, the Police Department's National Night Out and the Recreation Department's Sunset Concert over at the golf course. [\(Brookline Day returns to Coolidge Corner on Sunday, September 10 – mark your calendars!\)](#)

But the name of the game these days is community engagement, and I wanted to talk about a number of key initiatives that've thrived based on your input so far and need your help to come to fruition. The first is a unique form of participatory budgeting afforded to us by the Community Preservation Act ("CPA").

Last month, the CPA Committee put out its [draft Community Preservation Plan](#), outlining community goals and processes for the next five fiscal years. Over 800 residents participated in helping the Committee think through what Brookline should prioritize with this new source of funding. This fall, the community will have the chance to pitch specific projects related to community housing, open space, recreation, and historic preservation. I'd strongly encourage you to review that draft plan, which does a great job explaining in plain language what is and isn't possible to do with those funds, so that when the time comes, you and your neighbors can make a well-informed request to the Committee that ensures your voices get heard. And if you know people from communities that haven't been as historically engaged with political processes in Town, this is a great opportunity to bring them into the fold too so we can hear their needs directly.

The other big thing coming down the pike is, of course, the Select Board's ultimate proposal for compliance with the MBTA Communities Act, the new law that requires us to have a certain amount of land zoned to permit multi-family housing "as of right" near transit stations by the end of this calendar year. There's been exhaustive community engagement on this so far, both in developing a proposal that involves using the major commercial corridor of Harvard Street and in seeking out alternatives that involve the use of existing multi-family districts. We're now at a point where those two potential plans, along with a number of auxiliary efforts spearheaded by the excellent MBTA-CA Multifamily Permitting Committee, are being finalized. You can see in-progress drafts of the multi-family plan [here](#) and of Harvard Street [here](#). The Select Board has made it clear to staff that they want the end goal to be a consensus zoning model for smart, sustainable, and affordable housing growth that encourages commercial activity while maintaining the community's character. We've gotten a lot of community feedback on issues like commercial ground-floor mandates, parking, and large parcels that we're incorporating into a cohesive whole that both allows compliance with the law but doesn't upend what people love about where they live now.

That's required a lot of listening, and it's been a moving experience for me. At the outset of this process, given the Select Board's mandate to develop a complex solution, I felt the need to be constantly explaining, challenging misperceptions, pushing back. I still feel that way at times—the old habits of a litigator die hard. But I've realized now that it's also the wrong way. When you ask people their opinion, it shouldn't be for the purpose of trying to correct it. People need the chance to express their concerns, even if they're rooted in misperceptions, and we need to show that we hear and respond to them, not just correct the misperceptions. Back in the winter, I published a memo that tried to address some of the community concerns raised in a letter by a local group about the MBTA-CA. But the tone of that memo was wrong, and some of the hills it chose to die on, like an argument over the semantics of the term "upzoning," were just not worth it. I've been working for an opportunity to publish a covering memo correcting the errors in that prior missive, but there hasn't been a good time—either I've been too busy, or there's been something going on in the community where me putting that out there would have been viewed with suspicion. As we head into the home stretch of thinking through how to comply with the MBTA-CA, I wanted to both admit that past error and recommit to being not just a listener but a learner rather than just an explainer.

I think the work that's gone on in the community over the last several months with regard to how to comply with the MBTA-CA will lead to a wonderful potential consensus zoning article. I also think there's the possibility of good news coming from the state regarding our efforts to ensure the guidelines they issued really work for Brookline and other urban core communities. I hope to have the outline of a potential consensus solution published next Tuesday, August 8, so people have ample time to review it in advance of a Select Board discussion of it on Tuesday, August 15. I welcome your comments, questions, and proposed changes in the interim.

It's hard to believe that next month will mark my one-year anniversary in this role as Town Administrator. I'm incredibly grateful to all the community members who've welcomed me and helped me be a good listener here in this ever-active, forward-thinking, civic-minded Town. I hope we can all recommit to a civil and collaborative process to help shepherd through these big community initiatives in the months to come. And I'm looking forward to learning even more from you in year two!

Best regards,  
Chas

Current listening: The Units – “[High Pressure Days](#)” (1980)

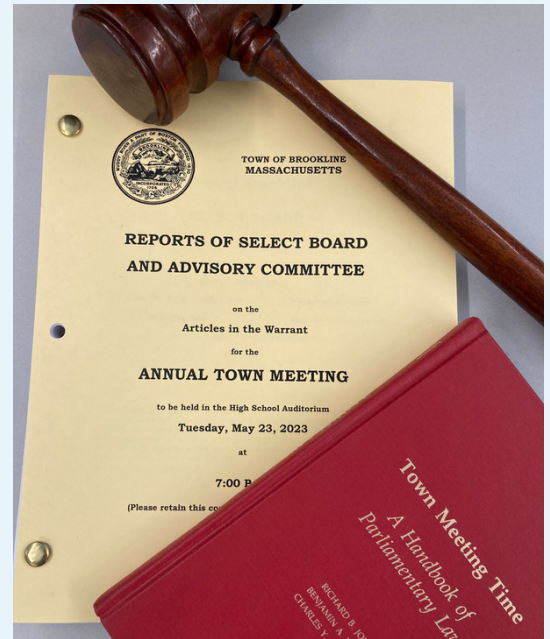
# THE TOWN CLERK'S CORNER: LOOK OUT FOR A CENSUS POSTCARD

Did you know that the Annual Town Census can impact your voter status?

If you did not respond to the 2023 Annual Town Census, you will be marked as an “Inactive” voter. Inactive voters are still registered voters, and are still able to vote in elections. However, you will have to go through an extra step on Election Day to vote.

But do not worry, there is a remedy!

Every voter who was marked as “Inactive” will receive a postcard in the mail. You should check off this post card saying you still live in Brookline and sign your name before returning it to the Town Clerk’s office. When your postcard is returned, you will be restored as an “Active” voter.



## August's Community Quiz from the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Relations

This August Brookline's Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Relations invites you to take our Community Quiz to test your knowledge, and learn more about Black Business Month and National Wellness Month.

This month the ODICR encourages you to celebrate Black Business Month and National Wellness Month! Celebrate Black Business Month by utilizing, being a patron of, and supporting Black Businesses in your community and beyond, researching and reading up on information that is new to you, and sharing this quiz with others! Celebrate National Wellness Month through prioritizing your self-care, managing stress, and promoting healthy routines.

**If you get a 10/10, your name will be entered into an end of the year raffle!**

**Take the Quiz today: <https://www.brooklinema.gov/1514/Community-Quiz>**







# SUMMER READING 2023



THE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
OF BROOKLINE

**Join the 2023 Summer Reading Program with the Public Library of Brookline!**

Explore the wonderful world of reading this summer with exciting programs and fun prizes. The program is open to community members of all ages, from babies through adults, and runs June 20 through August 19. To participate, simply:

**Kids:** [Sign Up and Log Your Reading!](#)

Kids ages birth to entering 4th grade (ages 0-9) can sign up for the program through our online tracker, Beanstack, or by asking at any Library location. For the duration of the program, track your hours spent reading using your Beanstack account or a paper log to spin the prize wheel and win prizes.

**Tweens, Teens, and Adults:** Visit the Library!

Visit any Public Library of Brookline location and check out at least one item to earn a spin on our prize wheel. Registration or logging your reading is not required for tweens, teens, or adults (ages 10+).

**Everyone:** Attend Programs!

We'll also be holding programs for adults and kids of all ages throughout the summer. [Visit our events calendar](#) to discover everything we have in store!

[Read more about the Summer Reading Program here!](#) [在此查看繁體中文版本](#). [在此查看简体中文版本](#). This program is generously sponsored by the Library Trustees, Friends of the Brookline Public Library, Brookline Booksmith, and J. P. Licks.

brookline  
booksmith Indigenous People  
Celebration Committee

**JAMES BIRD**  
with Adriana Mather

**NO PLACE  
LIKE HOME**

8.9.23 || 7PM







## Brookline Community Aging Network

Provides information to help residents remain engaged in the community.

Advocates to make Brookline an even better place to live for seniors and everyone.

**Join us!**

### Founding Partners



# Brookline Community Aging Network ***Re-Emerge and Re-Engage*** ***How to Thrive in a Post-Pandemic World***

## 2023 Annual Meeting and Reception

Thursday, September 7, 2023

5:00 -7:00 pm

Brookline Senior Center 93 Winchester Street

5:00 – 6:15 Explore, Network, Enjoy music, food and drink

6:15 – 7:00 Awards and guest speakers

### Guest Speakers:



**Sigalle Reiss**, Director,  
Brookline Public Health and  
Human Services



**Candace Cramer**,  
President & CEO,  
Goddard House

Please join us for this free event.  
BrooklineCAN Members & others are welcome.

Reservations: [rsvp@brooklinecan.org](mailto:rsvp@brooklinecan.org)

or

617-730-2770

[www.BrooklineCAN.org](http://www.BrooklineCAN.org)

# COUNCIL ON AGING SPOTLIGHT: VALUED VOLUNTEER - BELLA PRESCOTT

During her time at Northeastern, Bella Prescott worked as an EMT for an ambulance company, where she discovered a passion for connecting with seniors. Spending hours in the back of the ambulance during patient transports, she enjoyed her talks with seniors, learning about their lives and making them feel cared for and valued. This experience even influenced her relationship with her own grandmother, as she started calling her more often and building a closer connection.

Upon graduating, Bella knew she wanted to work with the aging population, although she wasn't exactly sure how. One day while walking through Coolidge Corner, she happened upon the Senior Center and decided to get involved. She quickly became a volunteer, first leading a crossword group and now working on the Reception Desk. Bella enjoys conversing with people while they wait for their rides, inquiring about their lives, and building connections.

One day at the Senior Center, Bella noticed Jamie Jensen wearing a Pro-Aging T-shirt. She had to have one! After she purchased one for herself, she received numerous compliments from family, friends, and even strangers on the street. Encouraged by this positive response, Bella returned to buy more shirts to share with the people in her life.

Looking ahead, Bella plans to attend medical school and is considering focusing on gerontology or substance abuse.

Pro-Aging T-shirts are available at the Brookline Senior Center for \$10



**BELLA PRESCOTT (L) AND FRIEND IN THE PRO-AGING SHIRT - GET YOURS AT THE SENIOR CENTER TODAY!**



# PUBLIC WORKS: SUMMER UPDATES AND EVENTS

## Save the Date!

**What:** Brookline Parklets Ribbon Cutting

**When:** Wednesday, August 16, 2023 at 11:00 AM

**Where:** 15 Harvard Street (in front of Starbucks)



Join the Brookline Department of Public Works and Division of Economic Development for a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Brookline Village Parklet.

Remarks by Representative Tommy Vitolo.

**DPWorks**  
Department of Public Works  
Parks and Open Space

**Brookline**  
**Planning**



### Introducing Brookline's New Parklets!

The Brookline Parks and Open Space Division of DPW partnered with the Economic Development Division to build and maintain three vibrant "mini-parks" throughout the town.

Explore these accessible outdoor spaces at 1003 Beacon Street (by Saint Mary's Street), 1349 Beacon Street (Coolidge Corner), and 15 Harvard Street (Brookline Village) that help foster community connections and offer a refreshing urban space for people to relax and enjoy.

We hope to see you on August 16th for the Ribbon Cutting!



# REMINDER: SANITATION FEE CHANGES EFFECTIVE JULY 1ST

Due to changes in the refuse and recycling market, collection and administrative costs, and inflation for supplies and services, Town costs have increased significantly since the commencement of Brookline's Hybrid-Pay-As-You-Throw program in 2017. Beginning July 1, 2023, **sanitation fees will be increased to support these growing program costs.** The updated fees are as follows:

Cart Size	Old Rate	New FY24 Rate
35 Gallon	\$230/year	\$250/year
65 Gallon	\$310/year	\$336/year
95 Gallon	\$392/year	\$425/year
PAYT Overflow Bags	\$18.50/Roll of 5 Bags	\$20/Roll of 5 Bags
Cart Swap	\$40/swap	\$40/swap


To minimize base fees for municipal trash service and to support new DEP regulations, the Town will implement a Pay-As-You-Throw fee for Bulky and Special Waste pickups as follows:

- **Special Bulky Item** \$10/each
- **White Goods & Electronics** \$20/each
- **Mattresses** \$55/each

All pickups will need to be scheduled online and paid for in advance. Additional information is available on our website at [www.brooklinema.gov/sanitation](http://www.brooklinema.gov/sanitation).

**REMINDER:**  
**RATE CHANGES FOR**  
**BULKY ITEM PICKUP**  
**EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023**

Special Bulky Items: \$10 Each  
"White Goods" & Electronics: \$20 Each  
Mattresses: \$55 Each



DPW

# Skyline Park Project Update

We are excited to share that the Synthetic Turf Field Replacement Project at Skyline Park is well underway. Members of the public, staff, and Park and Recreation Commission participated in the public design review process in Winter 2023 that ultimately defined the materials and scope of work for the field replacement. We extend our gratitude to those of you who participated!

This field renovation puts Brookline on the cutting edge of synthetic turf technology. The turf selected for this project is Greenfields Iron turf which is a woven turf product that is made in the USA and is completely recyclable at the end of life. The product is also Cradle to Cradle Certified. The infill product that is being used with the turf is BrockFill, a product that is sustainably grown in the USA, 100% recyclable at the end of life, reduces heat by up to 40 degrees and is also Cradle to Cradle Certified.



## Road Work Improvements Continue

The Town is excited to share that our next round of sidewalk/paving improvements is about to begin. Per our Transportation and Mobility Plan (found below), work will be completed on the following streets this year:

- Kenwood Street
- Russell Street
- Walnut Street from Dudley Street to Warren Street
- Chestnut Street from Walnut Street to Franklin Street
- Short Street

<https://www.brooklinema.gov/DocumentCenter/View/29829/Brookline-Transportation--Mobility-Plan-FINAL-02252022>

This work will provide accessible accommodations along these roads and deliver on all requirements associated with the Town's Complete Streets policy.

# HEALTH DEPARTMENT PROVIDES FREE NALOXONE AND TRAINING TO RESIDENTS

The Brookline Department of Public Health and Human Services is pleased to announce that it will be providing free Naloxone to residents.

Naloxone (Narcan) is a medication approved by the Food and Drug Administration designed to rapidly reverse opioid overdose. When given in time, Naloxone can restore breathing within 2-3 minutes in a person whose breathing has slowed or stopped due to an opioid overdose.

The Department has qualified to participate in the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) Community Naloxone Purchasing Program (CNPP).

“Naloxone is an essential tool in our collective fight against opioid overdoses, and a tool we’re now able to provide to everyone in our community who needs or wants it,” Public Health Director Sigalle Reiss said. “I encourage anyone — and especially those who know someone who is at risk of overdose, or is at risk themselves — to take advantage of this lifesaving resource.”

Through its participation in the CNPP, Brookline may now order fully subsidized Naloxone directly from the State Office of Pharmacy Services. As an affiliate program, the Brookline DPH will be responsible for providing counseling on overdose prevention and training on overdose response to all individuals who receive CNPP-obtained Naloxone.

The Department will launch Project Citizens Accessing Naloxone (Project CAN) and will offer group training throughout the summer and fall. The Department will also welcome anonymous, walk-in requests for Naloxone any time during business hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Thursday, and 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Friday) at the Public Health Building, 11 Pierce St. More information can be found at [brooklinema.gov/health](http://brooklinema.gov/health).

The Department will offer Naloxone in a prefilled nasal spray form which anyone can use without medical training or authorization, though training will be available on-site prior to distribution.

If you or someone you know is at increased risk for opioid overdose or has an Opioid Use Disorder, please contact the Brookline Public Health Nurse at 617-730-2320 to access Naloxone at no charge. Naloxone is free, safe, and available to all.





# PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT & AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATES

## Three Affordable Condominium Units for Sale

There are currently three affordable condominium units for sale: a one-bedroom on Juniper Street, a two-bedroom on St. Paul Street, and a three-bedroom unit on Boylston Street. More information is available on our [Affordable Housing Search webpage](#).

Perhaps the most subscribed news list for Brookline is our Affordable Housing Opportunities News Flash. If you were not one of the 3,500 people to receive an [email or text over the weekend about these units](#), sign up for [future notifications](#), and remember to reply to the confirmation email!

When individual resales of deed-restricted affordable units come on the market in Brookline, Housing Project Planner David Guzman makes sure the sale process is marketed and conducted appropriately under fair housing laws, runs the selection process of qualified applicants, and assists applicants through the process. Even if you are not ready to purchase a home now, consider taking a [First Time Homebuyer course](#) now – this is a prerequisite for purchasing an affordable unit through our office.



## Town of Brookline Work Anniversaries - August 2023

We celebrate the work anniversaries of our employees who joined the Town of Brookline in the month of August over the years. As you can see by the department listing, they are providing a diverse array of services to the Town's employees, residents, businesses, and visitors. Thank you for your service!

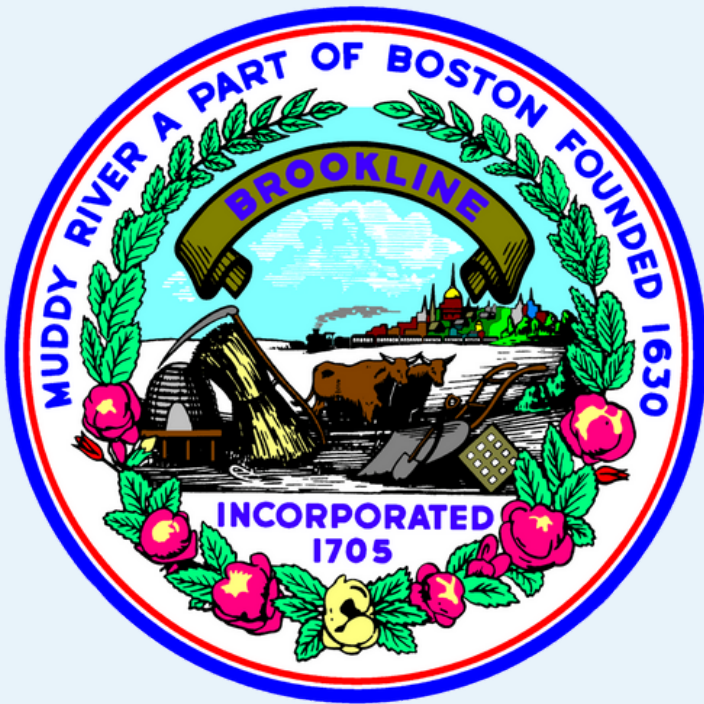
Name	Department
Stephanie Aucoin	DPW - Administration
Jaylin Bartholomew Miller	Public Safety - Dispatch
Daniel Breen	Fire
David Cheung	Police - Patrol
Nicola Cipollone	DPW - Parks
Catherine Converse	Police - Crossing Guard
Joshua Cooke	Recreation
Ruthann Dobek	Council on Aging
Cormac Dowling	Fire
Kyle Dyas	Police - Traffic
Brendan Fields	Fire
Kerry Fleming	Town Counsel
Cathryn Foley	Assessor
Jonathan Frank	Assessor
Paul French	DPW - Highway
David Geanakakis	Purchasing

Name	Department
Melissa Goff	Town Administration
Robert Gould	Fire
Michael Heavey	Police - Patrol
Thomas Herman	DPW - Highway
Amanda Hirst	Library
Peter Hopkins	Fire
Olajumoke Tobi Ighodalo	IT
Chanyce Jannite	Treasurer
Michael Keaveney	Police - Criminal Investigation
Donal Kerrigan	Police - Community Relations
Paul Lacy	Library
Michael Lombardi	DPW - Water
Robert MacGregor	Fire
Gary Manoukian	DPW - Sanitation
Daniel Martin	DPW - Transportation
Robert Mayer	Police - Patrol
John McCarthy	Fire
Karen Mikita	Recreation



<b>Name</b>	<b>Department</b>
<b>Conor Monahan</b>	<b>Fire</b>
<b>David Morse</b>	<b>Fire</b>
<b>Brian Mulkern</b>	<b>Fire</b>
<b>Stephen Nelson</b>	<b>Fire</b>
<b>Leslea Noble</b>	<b>Human Resources</b>
<b>Aaron Norris</b>	<b>Planning</b>
<b>Brendan O'Connor</b>	<b>Fire</b>
<b>John O'Leary</b>	<b>Fire</b>
<b>Fritz Parent</b>	<b>DPW - Parks</b>
<b>Myke Pierre-Louis</b>	<b>Fire</b>
<b>Lisa Portscher</b>	<b>Advisory Committee</b>
<b>David Randolph</b>	<b>Fire</b>
<b>Devin Ream</b>	<b>Fire</b>
<b>Jonathan Ross</b>	<b>Fire</b>
<b>Sara Schaffer</b>	<b>Health</b>
<b>Matthew Shatkin</b>	<b>Fire</b>
<b>Edward Tam</b>	<b>Police - Patrol</b>
<b>James Tong</b>	<b>Council on Aging</b>

Name	Department
Alba Velez	Treasurer
Benjamin Vivante	IT
Gary Vogler	IT
Brendan Ward	Fire
Xinru Yang	Library



*Thank  
you!*